

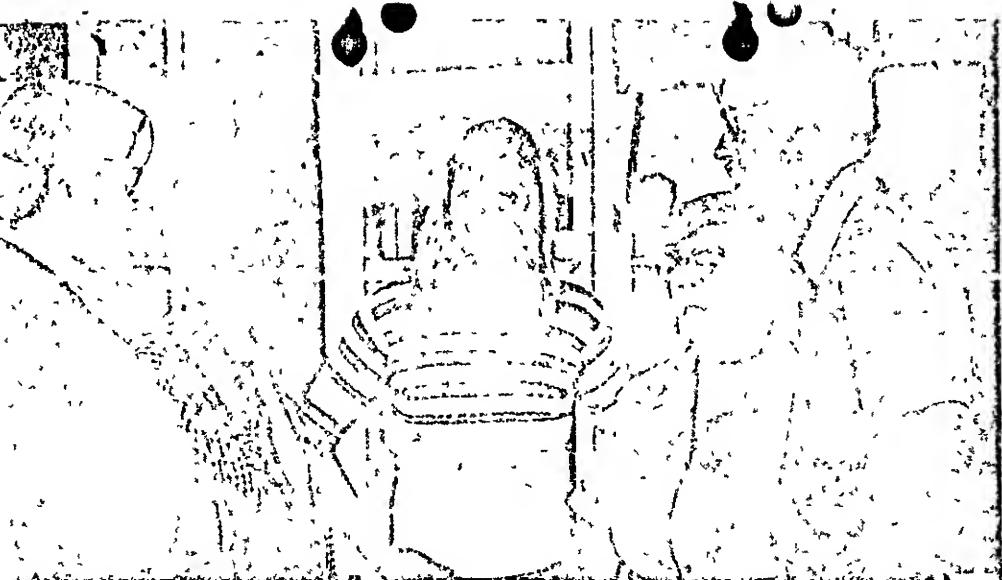


FREEDOM OF INFORMATION AND PRIVACY ACTS

SUBJECT: Democratic Socialists of America/Remand



FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION



TRIBUNE PHOTO BY FRANK FOLWELL

Much, Gordon Muller, Doris Kolvoord and Bruce Buerkens
About a dozen Iowans are members

Davenport members of the Democratic Socialist Organizing Committee are (from left) Ned Petersen, JoAnne

ned in the 1970s. Now it's
re for something different.

Some people are convinced
that if you question the fundamental structure of the system, you have to be a radical,
"a bomb in one hand and a
d flag in the other." We
want to open up the decision
making process to some considerations besides simply busi-
ness profit."

Kolvoord — "It has to be an
revolutionary process."

Mrs Kolvoord and the others
believe that process got a push
from public reaction to the
Vietnam War.

"It opened people's minds to
questioning the government and
ask just how are these decisions made," said Muller.

The liberal approach, said
Petersen was to "latch onto
government as the counter-
balance to the corporation."

Now, he said, the Nixon ad-
ministration has dismantled the
several programs increasing
problems of many poor per-
sons.

See Change Ahead

Probably more important, the
four agreed are the new diffi-
culties of energy shortages, in-
flation and threats to the envi-
ronment. The higher prices un-
derdeveloped countries are

charging for raw materials will
keep those problems around for
many years, they said.

The result in the coming dec-
ades will be radical — although
not necessarily violent —
change, they said.

The question they added, is
what kind of change. A
change in which society is
dominated by technocracy or
government-imposed capitalism or
communism or something else?

"If you want to keep your
freedom and liberty, you cannot
concentrate your power in a few
one portion of society," said
Petersen.

Thus, Davenport's Democra-
tic Socialists are not big sup-
porters of nationalization of
industry and business, because
they said that would give too
much power to government.

Instead they want "public
ownership and decentralized
control" of large businesses
with consumers and workers
having an equal voice with
management in determining
company products and prices.

Such a system would virtually
eliminate profits thus making
nearly impossible the accumula-
tion of great wealth — the
traditional American dream of

many workers and business-
men.

American Dream
Petersen concedes that
"making a million dollars hap-
pens often enough to satisfy the
myth."

But, the result is a lower
standard of living for the aver-
age person, said Mrs Kolvoord,
adding

"We've got to change the
American dream."

But, they were asked
wouldn't that stifle the motivation
that has helped produce
America's riches?

No they replied, because
people could still be motivated
to have \$50,000-a-year executive
jobs, for example.

Also they claim, values have
changed.

People are as concerned
about working conditions and
job satisfaction as they are
about wages.

People are demanding more
inexpensive child-care centers,
medical care and educational
opportunities that will not
wreck a lifetime's savings, rea-
sonable public transportation to

counteract the rising cost of
gasoline and growing expense
of owning a car, they said.

And, they said, people also certain degree of frivolity."

are seeking openness in a gov-
ernment that has had its integ-
rity shaken in part by the
heavy influence of big business

"Scary"

Mrs Kolvoord, who also is
second vice-chairman of the
Scott County Democratic Cen-
tral Committee, campaigned
for her delegate spot to the
Democratic December con-
vention on a theme of keeping
the party open.

Party reforms in 1972 re-
sulted in greater participation
by women and minorities in
major decisions. Reforms also
brought complaints of a "quota
system" — and a move to go
back to some of the old ways
when the December convention
writes a charter.

"I think it's scary," said
Mrs Kolvoord. "I don't want to
lose that openness."

The socialists are not al-
ways super-serious. Actually,
they laugh a lot.

Although Petersen, in partic-
ular, spurns materialism, Mrs.
Kolvoord doesn't like the idea
of the spartan existence social-
ists often lead in novels.

"I'm a believer in certain
luxuries," she said, "because I
don't think it's good to be
strictly utilitarian. Life needs a

Democrats Dovans See Change

By Dennis Brewer
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DAVENPORT, IA. — Doris Kolvoord was 30 when her husband, Franklin, inherited property in Germany and they moved there from New Jersey in 1934.

Doris joined the Hitler Youth and the Nazi Party, which was being shamed when she learned of the war atrocities.

"We've learned to question a lot more since then," said God," she said somberly.

Mrs. Kolvoord is now the wife of a retired U.S. Army sergeant, mother of two and grandmother of one. And she's questioning the American system of government.

She's one of perhaps a dozen with liberal views in Davenport, news let-

ters who belong to the Democratic Socialist Organizing Committee — called DeeSoc.

DeeSoc writer Michael Harrington, who put the group together last fall,

Socialism, which advocates re-tiling of ownership and control of production, capital, land, etc. in the community as a whole, is not unique in Iowa. But in the past, persons with such socialist leanings usually gave best to themselves because of the backlash of McCarthyism in the 1950s.

Now, that has changed. Harrington, Mrs. Kolvoord and Democratic Socialists across the country — a thousand plus, they claim — are pushing their cause.

DeeSoc members are active in the Davenport system and have been state convention delegates.

They — and the other half-dozen Iowa socialists, most of them teachers or students at the state universities — pay \$15 a year (\$8 for "harasship" cases) to belong to the Democratic Socialist Organizing Committee.

The Democratic Party platform reflects things they proposed or worked for.

Giving labor and consumer groups more voice in business decisions, paving medical school costs of doctors who will stay in Iowa (viewed as a step toward socialized medicine), opposition to corporate farming, the government guaranteeing jobs at comparable pay for those put out of work by energy or environmental policies.

The central, long-range goal of change though is to replace America's profit system with one of "fair wages" — with top executives probably making about \$30,000.

Views

These and other views, polished by the Davenport DeeSoc members at regular discussion meetings during the past several months, were reflected in the interview. Some excerpts from the dialogue:

Petersen — "We're not a political party and don't intend to be. We do encourage members to run for political office. I think it's important to put the word out (that you are a socialist) just so you aren't clubbed

and start the ips and political participation.

Mrs. Kolvoord recently announced a delegate to the Democratic Party's National Charter Convention in Kansas City next December.

Did fellow Democrats know they were supporting a socialist? she asked.

"People were aware of it," she said. "It wasn't kept secret."

Peaceful Change

State Democratic Chairman Tom Whitney believes Mrs. Kolvoord is "a good fit" as a hard-working Democrat who ran for the Iowa House in 1972.

But he cautions there "are Democrats who disagree."

DeeSoc holds views in support of peace.

There is doubt that Kolvoord and other Iowa socialists — there are five in the Davenport —

— want to change the system.

But they stress doing it peacefully, without causing political and government structures, and they feel often "misunderstanding" can suggest "it's a revolution" and "communism" or "some other."

The difference and difference Muller during a break in the hour interview with De-

DeeSoc.

But he cautions there "are

Democrats who disagree."

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9/24/74

Director, FBI

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**DEMOCRATIC SOCIALIST ORGANIZING COMMITTEE
INFORMATION CONCERNING**

Reurlet dated 9/12/74 concerning above committee wherein you requested to be advised if this committee is a legitimate political organization or if Omaha should initiate investigation.

The Democratic Socialist Organizing Committee is a legitimate organization and no further action should be taken by your office to investigate this organization. It was founded in New York City on 10/12/73 and one of its leaders pointed out that this organization does not seek a large membership but makes itself known as a socialist organization and must work within the liberal wing of the Democratic Party. For example, some of the goals of this organization are support of tax reform measures, massive redistribution of wealth, and nationalized medicine.

[redacted] was formerly the subject of a security-type investigation; however, he has not been for a number of years. [redacted]

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